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1662/56202

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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DEC 29 2003

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Applicants : METZGER  
Serial No. : 10/073,960  
Filed : February 14, 2002  
For : METHODS FOR THE PREPARATION OF MIRTAPINE  
INTERMEDIATES  
Group Art Unit : 1624  
Examiner : E. Bernhardt

**Response to Final Office Action Under 35 USC 1.116**

Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action dated September 24, 2003, Applicants respectfully request entry of the following amendments and reconsideration of the pending claims. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments and remarks made herein put the claims in condition for allowance or at least in better condition for appeal. No fee is believed due.

*Please  
Encl.  
LB  
2/3/04*